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COMMITTEES:

RULES, CHAIRMAN

Arizona State Senate

August 22, 2013

The Honorable Ken Bennett
Secretary of State
1700 West Washington Street, 7th Floor
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Secretary Bennett:

Pursuant to A.R.S. 38-291, a legislative office is "deemed vacant" on "the person holding the office ceasing to be a resident of the district". It is my duty to inform you that the Senate position of Legislative District 16 has been vacated by its former Senator, Rich Crandall.

It is never easy to sever ties to a position one has enjoyed, but it is apparent that former Senator Crandall has moved on -- to another state, and to other employment.

The following is a list of indicia of his abandonment of his Senatorial office:

1. He is the Director of the state education department of Wyoming. He is working directly for the Governor of Wyoming and has been so employed since August 5, 2013. In fact, in this new capacity he has been working in Wyoming or traveling to conferences around the country.
2. He resides in Cheyenne, the state Capitol of Wyoming.
3. He has removed all of his personal furnishings from his office at the State Senate building and his office is now empty.
4. The Senator utilized social media sites numerous times over the last month indicating his new position with the state of Wyoming began August 5, 2013, and that he intended to leave Arizona on the 16th of August.
5. Senator Crandall contacted me on August 5, 2013, and indicated he would send his letter of resignation that afternoon effective August 16, 2013. On August 20, 2013, he submitted a letter of resignation intending it to be effective on August 31, 2013, but admitted in the letter that the only reason he is attempting to delay his formal departure from the Senate is his desire to maintain Arizona

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subsidized health insurance until his insurance coverage as Director of Education in Wyoming takes effect. He did not indicate that he wished to complete Senate business or represent his constituents through the end of August.

While I appreciate that former Senator Crandall, now serving as the Director of Education in Wyoming, is having trouble letting go of his office in Arizona, I think it is best if the constituents of Legislative District 16 are able to immediately begin the process of appointing a replacement. The normal procedure is to make this change as soon as possible rather than requiring the State's taxpayers to continue to pay the salary and other costs of a person who is no longer qualified to serve as an Arizona State Senator.


Additionally, he stated that the only reason for his desire to maintain the title of State Senator is to derive medical insurance for his family. However, I have received notice from the ADOA that, by established policy, his insurance coverage remains in place until midnight on August 31, 2013. Further, that information was timely provided to the former Senator and obviates his attempt to claim that he is still qualified to serve as an Arizona State Senator while living in another state and serving as the chief education officer of that state.

Further, Director Crandall would be best served by immediately severing his nominal relationship to Arizona. His current employer, the Governor of Wyoming, would be assured of his full commitment to the Director's new position even though the Director is an Arizona State Senator in name only.

Finally, the termination of Director Crandall's position as State Senator has played out in the media for quite some time. His constituents are entitled to representation by someone living in their legislative district who is committed to Arizona and Legislative District 16. They are entitled by law to immediately begin the process to replace a Senator who is residing in another state.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

All the best,


Andy Biggs
Senate President

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